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SOCIETY OF WOMEN MUSICIANS

18, ALBERT BRIDGE ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.11.

(Telephone: 01.622.7025)

31st March, 1970.

Dear Member,

Change of Honorary Secretary

As you may already know, Miss Grace Barrons Richardson, who has so efficiently and endearingly carried out the duties of Honorary Secretary to the Society for the past fifteen months, is unexpectedly moving away from London. She cannot, therefore, continue with her appointment. We are extremely sorry to lose her: she has given so liberally of her time and talents. I think she knows how deeply we appreciate all she has done for us and that our very best wishes go with her to her new life in the country.

We are more than fortunate to have found, as her successor, Miss Dilys Orpen, already well-known to us as an active member of the Society and one who served on the Council a few years ago. She has such a wide knowledge of the music world in general and of this Society in particular, that the take-over from Miss Richardson should be much smoother than we had dared to hope would be possible. We trust Miss Orpen will be very happy with us.

Like Miss Richardson, she will work at home. From tomorrow (April 1st), therefore, the official address of the Society will be as above. It would greatly assist the Honorary Secretary if members would, if possible, only ring her up between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays inclusive.

Appeal for More Members

Our membership is higher than it has ever been. Even so, with ever-rising costs all round, we cannot now make ends meet. We have already, as an economy measure, dispensed with the helpful services of Archie Newman as Public Relations and Press Officer. In addition, the Council has been faced with the choice of increasing the subscription rates (which we are most reluctant to do, especially as, with the introduction of the decimal system, they will inevitably be slightly higher next year) or of putting up the charges for admission to our various events. We decided upon the latter course, and hope that you will understand the position and realise that this decision was not taken without very careful thought. We believe that we are still offering good value for money!

However, that is not the whole answer to our problem. What we need, and need urgently, is more members, so that we may count upon an enlarged steady income to meet current expenses.

To achieve this, we must enlist your kind co-operation.

Our programmes are as varied and interesting as we can make them. PLEASE come yourself whenever possible and bring with you a friend who may be sufficiently attracted to want to join the Society. Enclosed herewith is a copy of our new brochure, which contains a form of application for membership. PLEASE spare no effort to find at least one new member by the end of June.

IF EVERY PRESENT MEMBER DOES SO, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO KEEP OUR RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION LOW WITHOUT ANY CURTAILMENT OF OUR ACTIVITIES.

Future Plans

Our plans for the future include some outstanding events, such as a Master Class to be taken by Gerald Moore, C.B.E., on October 31st, at 4, St. James's Square (see enclosed leaflet) and a Gala Concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in July 1971 to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, which falls in that month.

Visits to the Opera

Miss Marian Attwood has been very successful with her organisation of group-bookings for Covent Garden and the Coliseum. You will be glad to hear that we have now been put on the list of those who may be invited to attend rehearsals at Glyndebourne. Members who wish to be notified of these frequent visits to the opera at much-reduced prices should send TWO stamped addressed envelopes to Miss Marian Attwood, 7, Prince Arthur Road, London, N.W.3. (01.435. 4902).

Musical Safaris

May I draw your attention to the possibility of going on a Musical Safari? A leaflet about these original trips, managed by Archie Newman, is enclosed for your information.

Margaret Ritchie Memorial

Finally, may I beg you generously to support the appeal for funds to provide a scholarship for singers in memory of the late Margaret Ritchie. One of our most famous members, she was devoted to this Society. It is to be hoped that very many who remember her with gratitude and affection will welcome this opportunity to contribute to a fitting memorial to a great artist. Particulars are on the enclosed note.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) MARGARET PATERSON

Chairman.